

“The Lamb,” “The Tyger,” “The Chimney Sweeper,” and “Infant Sorrow” by William Blake
Reading Strategy: Use Visuals as a Key to Meaning

When you read any form of literature that has accompanying illustrations, you can **use the visuals as a key to meaning** by studying the details of the illustrations and thinking about how they relate to the information provided by the author’s words. Look at visuals and consider how they support or add to information about characters or events. Blake’s vivid illustrations accompany both “The Lamb” and “The Tyger.” A late-nineteenth-century engraving, accompanies the poems “The Chimney Sweeper” and “Infant Sorrow” in your textbook. By looking closely at the details of these illustrations you can gather clues about Blake’s meaning and about the characters, ideas, or situations described in the poems.

DIRECTIONS: Use the graphic organizer below to help you use the visuals as a key to Blake’s meaning. Study the illustrations as you read each poem. Gather and chart clues that support or add to information in the poems. The first one has been done for you.

Poem	What the Illustrations Add to the Meaning
“The Lamb”	1. One of the lambs in the illustration is eating from the boy’s hand, supporting the description of the lamb as meek and docile.
“The Tyger”	2.
“The Chimney Sweeper”	3.
“Infant Sorrow”	4.